

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP August 27, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 50  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
Forgive us, O Lord, for lack of love toward  
thee whose love has never failed, for doubt  
of thy goodness and unbelief in thy prov-  
idence, for ingratitude for blessings re-  
ceived and unwillingness to give of that  
which thou hast given, for any dullness of  
insight which has kept us unaware of thy  
glory, and for any disobedience unto such  
heavenly visions as we have been able to see;  
forgive us, O Lord, and may we henceforth  
love thee as we ought, for we ask it in the  
name of Jesus Christ. Amen.  
\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture---Acts 2:22-41  
\*The Gloria Patri  
The Pastoral Prayer  
The Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
The Hymn of Meditation 406  
The Sermon---"One Way. But Is It The Only  
Way?" Part II  
The Sermon Prayer  
\*The Hymn of Response 161  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude  
\*Congregation Stands

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our training session and bible study will  
be held in the church in New Bloomfield on  
Wed. evening Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. We will  
be studying and discussing "Sin", as it is  
defined in the new testament.

Our guest minister for the month of Sept.  
will be the Rev. Reginald Wagner, Director  
of Parish Ministries, of the Penn Central  
Conference.

If there are any pastoral needs during the  
Pastor's absence, please call Rev. Larry  
Rumner at 582-4356.

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday Sept. 3rd the men of the church  
will conduct the worship service at the  
Kinkora Home at 2:00 PM.

John McCoy is in the Harrisburg Hospital in  
Room B-642.

*Mrs. Snider At Home Now*

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The proud grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene  
Eby, have placed a rosebud on the altar in  
honor of the birth of their grandson,  
Colin Aaron Eby. We congratulate the  
parents Samuel & Judy Eby on this happy  
occasion.

*JANDY GANTT Had Baby Girl  
LAST NITE OSTEOPATHIC HOSP.*

"One Way. But is it the Only Way?"

JPH

Text: Acts 2:36, "Know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

You will recall no doubt, that last week we dwelt on one aspect of Jesus Christ as being the, "only way to God the Father." This week we will look at it from yet another aspect.

The life story of Jesus is fairly well known to most of us and therefore we need not reiterate it now. But we must look at him from the standpoint of who he was. The prophets spoke of a coming messiah, a king who would set them free from their bondage. This king would perform miraculous feats, and he would overthrow those who held the Israelites in bondage.

Then Jesus of Nazareth was born and immediately when he began to perform miraculous deeds, there were those who claimed him as the Messiah. The more he did, the more he was acclaimed as the anointed one sent from God. This man became disliked by the religious authorities of his day and they plotted to do away with him. So he was killed, executed as a criminal. But strangely enough he did not stay dead, for he appeared to his disciples, as well as over 500 other people as Paul tells us. He left no doubt in the minds of his followers who he was. And so was born what is a lovely legend to some, an unbelievable story to others, and the most wonderful true reality to countless others. Christianity came into being and men either risked their lives trying to defeat it, or risked their lives to further it.

The story we read as scripture this morning, is the familiar story of Peter and the disciples at Pentecost. They were accused of being drunk. But Peter arose and gave them one of the most masterful sermons ever delivered. He told them of Jesus and how ~~he was prophesied to come~~ King David prophesied about him in Psalm 16:8-11. (It is interesting to note the paraphrasing of this Psalm as Peter does it in

in life. ~~But here again we must be aware that it is much easier to point out the way than it is to show it.~~

A man traveling through Detroit on his way to Canada stopped and asked directions to the tunnel leading into Windsor.

(Illustration of same)

This illustration shows us that it is imperative that we show the way rather than point it out. But again we become involved in the question, "Aren't we being selfish to expect everyone else to become followers of Jesus Christ?" And again ~~this is not an easy~~ there is no easy answer.

If for instance the only way to God is through Jesus Christ, then we can raise the hypothetical question, "What happens to all of the people who have walked the face of this earth and never heard the name of Jesus, and have died not knowing him, what happens to them after death?" Supposing that a native in Africa in one of the more remote regions, lived and died without ever hearing about Jesus, and supposing this man lived a religious life as far as he was able. Would he be doomed to hell? This becomes a very deep theological question and is one that we cannot answer. The reason we cannot answer is because we do not know all of the answers. Only God in an instance like this can make the decision. All we can do is to continue trusting in the love and the mercy of God, for all mankind, and leave the final decisions up to him.

This does not mean that we must each go our separate way, and forget everyone else. No, that is the wrong attitude. To take an attitude such as this is very similar to taking the attitude, "I will let my children make their own decision about church when they are grown." This is a cop-out of the first order. It is a means of not asserting parental duty. By the same token we must not operate this way ~~when~~ when we are in the midst of those who are not of our belief.

We must at least make the effort to tell them of our belief,

and give them the chance for acceptance or rejection.

Gil Stricklan, the young man I told you about with the large clock on the plane, also told another true incident in his life. This took place last December 26, on a highway heading north through New Mexico on a very dark and pitch black night. He told of having a friend who owned a piece of property in Colorado and this man lets him use it for several weeks during the winter.

He said he was driving along thinking of the fun they were going to have skiing, sledding, and enjoying the winter wonderland and just all around relaxing after traveling around the country for a year. His wife was in the back seat lying down asleep with their baby and he was driving and enjoying the feeling of having the highway all to himself late at night and speeding toward his destination. All of a sudden he got a revelation of some sort and almost as if someone else was driving the car he jerked the wheel very hard to the right, off the road completely and onto the shoulders of the road. As he did this a large truck with no lights whatsoever, hurtled past him on the blackened highway on his side of the road. Needless to say, had he remained where he was, he would have been killed in a headon collision.

It all happened so fast and he said he did not realize all of his actions, but the next thing he knew ~~he was pushing over the~~ ~~horns of his~~ his wife was pounding him on the back and shouting ~~Gil~~ Gil, Gil, whats the matter. It was then he realized that he was leaning on the horn with one hand and ~~pushing~~ pounding on the steering wheel with the other and shouting at the top of his voice, "You're going the wrong way. You're going the wrong way."

Do we not, as confessing Christians, have the right to say to someone who is not, "You're going the wrong way?"

Jesus tells us in John 12:26, "If anyone serves me, he must follow me." This doesn't mean going our own way, it means going the



way that Jesus showed us. This doesn't mean going the way of the world, it means living and following the example of Jesus.

It is the duty of each one of us to witness for Christ and to strive to bring others into his kingdom. Now if this is selfish then I believe this is the way it must be. But our Christian duty is to live and to witness for our Saviour. It is up to the compassion and mercy of God who receives salvation without coming through Christ, but for the Christian the only choice is to speak out for Jesus. If we do this and people reject Christ, then the consequences of their rejection is upon their heads for this rejection. But if we fail to speak out for Jesus we can rest assured that Jesus will deny us in his kingdom. He tells us this in Mark 8:38, "For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

To those of other faiths who are outside of Christianity, we must treat them with love and concern and respect. We must pray for them and seek to show Jesus Christ in our lives, our actions and our speech. If they continue to reject him, then we have done all we can do, and God will take care of the rest. But we must never flaunt our Christianity to others, or strive to act in a selfish way, acting as though we have salvation and everyone else does not.

Everything we do toward others must be motivated out of love for them, even as God has shown his love for us through Jesus Christ. We should seek to share with them,

"Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noon-tide heat and the burden of the day.

"Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very form of one who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess,  
The wonders of His glorious love and my own worthlessness.

I take O cross thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross. Amen."

Solemn Lenten time 9:30

7/20/01

\*Processional Hymn 7

Choral Call to Worship

\*Confession of Sin

\*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Hosea 4: 1 to 9 8/4: 5 & 10

Gloria Patri

\*Apostles Creed

\*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem 221

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY REV DOUGLAS GARLAND  
11:00 TRIAL SERMON. TRY TO BE PRESENT  
NOTIFY OTHERS ETC,

CHIRP STRING FELLOW RETIRED & PIRM  
WELCOME VISITORS

CHINA PRACTICE WED. 8:00

SHORT CONSISTORY AFTER CHURCH

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 271

Bernon

Prayer Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 191

\*Benediction

Carefold Amen

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.